

Regional
Transportation
Authority

**Application form:
RTA Community Planning Program and
CMAP Local Technical Assistance Program**

DEADLINE: Noon on Thursday, June 29, 2017

This application form is online at www.rtachicago.org/applications. You may submit the form by email to applications@rtachicago.org.

Upon receipt of application, you will receive an e-mail verifying that your application has been received.

1. Name of Applicant

VILLAGE OF STEGER

2. Main Contact for Application

Name: MIKE TILTON

Title: VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

Phone number: W - 708-754-3395 C - 708-932-0829

Email: M.tilton@villageofsteger.org

3. Type of Applicant (please check any that apply)

☒ Local government

☐ Multijurisdictional group* \longrightarrow Please list the members of the group (including government and nongovernmental organizations):

☐ Nongovernmental organization* \longrightarrow Name of local government partner(s):

*Applications submitted by multijurisdictional groups and nongovernmental organizations must include a letter indicating support from each relevant local government. See the FAQs for more information.

Nongovernmental applicants are strongly encouraged to contact CMAP or the RTA prior to submitting their application to discuss their project and the demonstration of local support.

4. Project Type (please check any that apply)

Please check all statements below that describe characteristics of your project.

- ☒ My project involves preparation of a plan.
- ☒ My project involves updating an already existing plan.
- ☐ My project helps to implement a past plan.
- ☒ My project links land use, transportation, and housing.
- ☒ My project has direct relevance to public transit and supports the use of the existing transit system.
- ☐ My project is not directly related to transportation or land use, but implements GO TO 2040 in other ways.

5. Local Match Requirement (please initial to indicate you are aware of the local match requirements)

I am aware that a local match will be required for most projects, and understand that if my project is selected it is up to the project applicant to contribute a local match. (See the program guide for further details on local match requirements.)

☒ Yes, I understand that applicants will be required to contribute a local match.

6. Project Location

Please provide a brief description of the location of your project. You may include a map if that helps to describe location, but this is not required. If your project helps to implement a past plan, please include a link to that plan.

7. Project Description

Please tell us what you would like to do in your community, and what assistance is needed. If you have more than one idea, please submit a separate application for each project. Please be specific, but also brief (less than two pages per project idea)—we simply want to have a basic understanding of what you want to do. For plan updates please tell us how you will be building upon (or replacing) the previous work. Program staff will follow-up with you if we need any additional information to fully understand your proposed project.

8. Previous Plan Implementation Efforts

Please describe actions you have taken to implement previous plans in your community – whether your efforts were successful or not – to achieve infrastructure improvements, development investment, policy changes, advocacy, volunteer involvement, or other actions. If you do not have experience implementing previous planning work, please describe what you will do to make sure that your plan is implemented. Illustrating a commitment to implement plan recommendations is very important to both agencies as we consider new planning projects.

9. Additional Strategic Partnerships

Please list any additional partners you may want to include in this planning project. Please specify if you have made contact with them in advance of submitting this application.

VILLAGE OF STEGER

3320 LEWIS AVENUE • STEGER, ILLINOIS 60475

(708) 754-3395 Fax: (708) 754-1913

www.VillageOfSteger.org

Board of Trustees

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Michael Tilton

Village Administrator

MTilton@VillageOfSteger.org

June 28, 2017

RTA Community Planning Program and CMAP Local Technical Assistance Program

Project Description:

Steger is seeking LTA planning assistance from CMAP to perform a Downtown Mixed-Use Development Plan. Stemming from the recently completed "Planning Priorities Report", Steger would like to further analyze the key recommendations identified in the report consisting of a market analysis of the key development sites, a short and long term review of taxing impacts resulting from various mixed use developments, and a final recommendation of various developments to seek on the identified sites in the downtown as well as any zoning or land use recommendations.

Steger's goal is to redevelop the underutilized "Steger Center Development Area" into a modern, mixed use project containing both new commercial spaces and new modern market-rate residential units. Currently, the proposed Steger Center area is located directly on the location chosen for a Metra station on the proposed new Southeast Metra line, we recognize that line and station may take several years to come to fruition. But at this time, our planning area is located directly along PACE route 358, which is an extension of route 352, the busiest route in the PACE system, and a CTA link route. Additionally southbound 358 eventually winds east and north to connect to the CTA at Hegewisch. Also, the Steger route(s) connect within two miles to the PACE Chicago Heights terminal, where riders can also transfer to routes 357, 372 and 366 effectively accessing the entire south suburbs, as well as Prairie State College, and the Metra Electric line.

Additionally, it is envisioned that as a part of this redevelopment, new bus stop lanes will be created at widened points in Chicago Road adjacent to the commercial project, making Pace riders safer and relieving traffic stoppages in the area caused by buses along Chicago Road.

The Village owns several properties in this area and has been in communication with various property owners to affect this redevelopment of the obsolete commercial, residential, and governmental uses in the neighborhood. Steger has been working with the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association to acquire a TOD grant to help fund pre-development planning of a specific site in the downtown but will need more help in visioning for that particular site as well as the surrounding area as a whole. SSMMA sees this project as perfectly suited to their goals of providing "equitable transit-oriented development which can benefit entire communities, including low-income households and communities by reducing the combined costs of housing and transportation, creating more vibrant, healthier

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neighborhoods where a wide range of people live and have access to employment, education, health care, healthy food, and more.”

As you can see, there has been a lot of thought and effort put into the redevelopment of our downtown area and is currently undergoing three re-development projects in the area at a cost estimate of over \$5 million dollars:

Gas Station redevelopment consisting of a new gas station. Laser car wash, Brick Oven Pizza Restaurant, Phone Store, Nail Salon, Ice Cream Shoppe, Vape Lounge, Taco and Burger Restaurant, and office for car exchange. The development is underway at a cost of \$4.5 Million

Demolition of a vacant structure and redevelopment of another for a Restaurant and Pub

Remodeling an existing structure for a Mid—Mod Furniture store

Current discussions with another business owner for \$3.5 million dollar mixed use renovation.

Village driven Downtown Streetscape along with Architectural Standards program with TIF Incentives.

Pilot Village for Com-Ed Smart Street Light Program (Upcoming).

\$3.3 Million dollar police department renovation currently under construction

As you can see, the village’s focus is to bring a community, pedestrian and mix-use to our downtown area which already has seen some traction. The village’s staff regarding these types of projects and developments are currently being handled by the Village Administrator.

The village would respectfully request assistance with planning and development of future projects.

The village is determined to make this much needed and desired project to happen, SSMMA TOD, CDBG and Invest in Cook applications have been submitted for this project. I have also attached the desired streetscape rendering the village is pursuing.

Any assistance would be of great appreciation.

Best regards,



Michael Tilton
Village Administrator
Village of Steger
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C 708-932-0829

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Michael Tilton

Village Administrator

MTilton@VillageOfSteger.org

March 17, 2017

The Honorable Toni Preckwinkle
President, Cook County Board of Commissioners
118 N. Clark Street Room 537
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear President Preckwinkle,

Please find attached the Village of Steger's Invest in Cook FY2017 Grant Application for the Union Avenue Roadway Diet, Bike Lane and Sidewalk Gap Infill Project. This project will provide significant safety and mobility benefits to the bicyclist and pedestrians for this area of Steger and the surrounding region. The grant money will be used to advance the Phase I Engineering and help to tie into our ongoing TIF improvement Program on Steger Avenue.

The primary need for this project is improved resident accessibility to Transit. There is a Pace Route 358 Torrence bus shelter at the north east corner of Union and Steger road. The sidewalks north of this shelter are discontinuous and this work will connect the various sidewalk sections from the north Village limit at 30th Street to Steger. The secondary need for this project is safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers. This project will implement a vehicle lane "diet", changing the roadway from a four lane motorized vehicle roadway to a roadway section with one north and south bound vehicle lane with a center left turn lane and a designated north and south bound 5' wide bicycle lane for the length of the project. Vehicle lane reductions, center left turn lanes and designated bike lanes have been shown to decrease both vehicular speed and accident rates where implemented.

The Chicago Avenue corridor is just west to the west of Union Ave and the railroad crossing on Steger Road. Chicago Avenue and Steger Road serves as the core of the Central Business District for Steger and provides access to many of the community service centers. Adjacent businesses depend on good vehicle and pedestrian access for their customers and this project will help improve these in the area. This corridor is a critical economic contributor to the Village of Steger's tax base, accessibility to public transportation and to the vitality of community life. Improvements to this corridor are expected to have positive regional benefits by providing a dependable route for movement to and from the transit station and providing health benefits with the added bike lanes and complete sidewalks to increase pedestrian usage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael Tilton
Village Administrator
Village of Steger

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2017 CDBG Capital Improvement/Demolition and Economic Development Project Application

DUNS Number (Required For Funding): 06-6208059

FEIN Number: 36-6006111 CFDA Number: 14.218

If acquisition is required for this project, is the property vacant? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please specify how long property has been vacant. _____

PROJECT NEED AND JUSTIFICATION

For the questions below, please attach additional pages if needed when providing your answers.

Describe the proposed project and designated project area (must be suburban Cook County):

(Provide a DETAILED description and a map that shows the project site and area that will benefit, if applicable. The map should also include any public transit stations (rail and bus) and bicycle facilities. Please also include any applicable photos.)

The project is the roadside sidewalk and lighting improvements on Chicago Road (IL 1) from Steger Rd. north to the Village Limit at 30th Street. The improvements include new sidewalk for ADA compliant intersections with detectable warnings replacing curb and gutter as needed, installing pedestrian lighting and replacing street lighting currently centered in the sidewalk preventing a clear path for visually and wheelchair bound disabled persons. Map, photos & plans attached.

Exact Location/Project Address: Chicago Road - from 30th Street south to Steger Road

If project is an infrastructure activity, please indicate the following:

Address Start: 3000 Chicago Road Address End: 3360 Chicago Road (Steger Rd.)

Linear Feet: 2,620

Summary of Project Need and Justification: Provide a concise summary of the need for the project and why this project is a priority. If the project is for a community center or other public facility, please indicate who is served or will be served by the facility, and include information about the location of similar facilities; the demand for services in the surrounding area; pedestrian, bicycle and public transit accessibility; and the applicant's financial ability to operate and maintain the facility. *(If additional space is required, please include attachments.)*

The Chicago Road west sidesidewalk access for people with visual disability and those in wheelchairs is in need of improvement. Street light poles are situated in the center of the 5 foot wide sidewalk making wheelchair access clearance of 36" impossible. There is also an existing fire hydrant and sign-post combination on the east side at 30th St. blocking access to wheelchairs. The existing street lighting has been designed only for the vehicular traffic along Chicago Road with no provision for pedestrian walkway illumination. See attached photos.



2017 CDBG Capital Improvement/Demolition and Economic Development Project Application

Specific Anticipated Accomplishments: *(Please provide details of the proposed activity. If additional space is required, please include attachments.)*

The goal for this project is to provide safe pedestrian connections within the neighborhood. The project will eliminate all physical restrictions to the sidewalk clear travelled way for persons with disabilities by eliminating clear-path sidewalk obstructions. The project will also provide detectable warnings at all sidewalk intersections with roads/commercial drives where no, or sub-standard ones currently exist.

The Construction activities will include replacing and constructing ADA accessible ramps with detectable warnings at 30 intersection locations. It will also include removing and relocating/replacing 17 street light poles out of the middle of the west side sidewalk. The new street light poles will have pedestrian level luminaires to provide safety levels of illumination on the west sidewalk. A new system of pedestrian light poles will be installed on the east side as well.

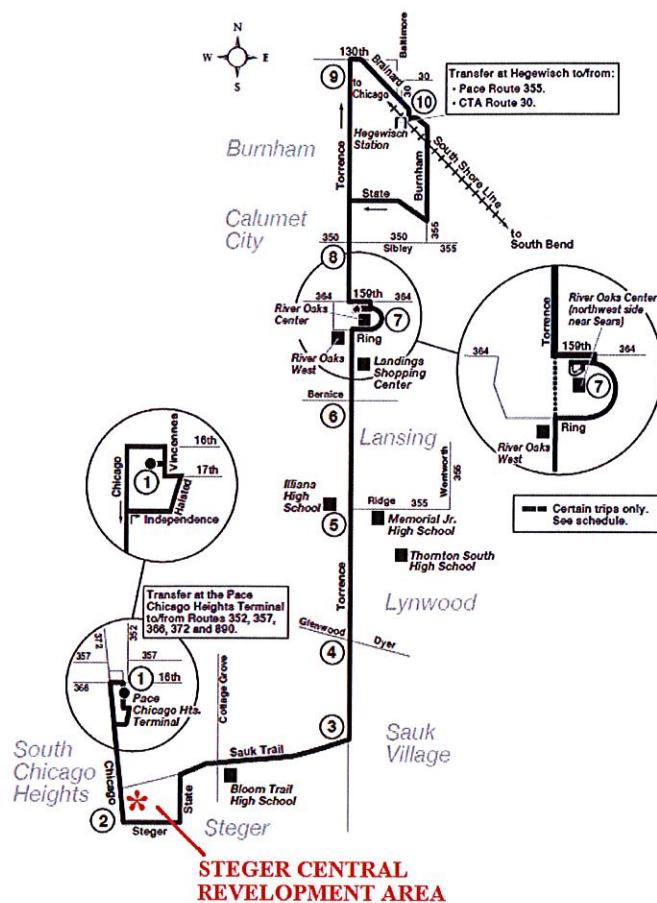
Please describe how your agency's proposed project is consistent with Cook County's 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan. The plan can be found here: <https://www.cookcountyil.gov/content/planning-progress>

This proposed project supports the Cook County Consolidated Plan's first "Plan of Action" by improving Infrastructure and Public Facilities. This project will provide an ADA accessible width on both west and east sides of Chicago Road where none were available before due to obstructions. Pedestrians and persons with disabilities will be able to travel within their neighborhood to and from work, transit (Pace Bus) and shopping, via the ADA compliant clear path and intersection ramps. The project will also provide improved sidewalk user safety with the improved lighting. This Capital Improvement Project also supports economic development efforts as it is located within a "LOW-MOD" income area.

Effective Date
November 23, 2014



Effective Date
April 14, 2014





ACTIVE
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March 15, 2017

The Honorable Toni Preckwinkle
President, Cook County Board of
Commissioners
118 N. Clark Street Room 537
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Dear President Preckwinkle,

Please accept this letter of support for the Village of Steger's Invest in Cook FY2017 Grant Application for the Union Avenue Roadway Diet, Bike Lane and Sidewalk Gap Infill Project. The Active Transportation Alliance is working closely with the Village of Steger on implementing their Complete Streets Policy. This project will provide significant safety and mobility benefits to the bicyclist and pedestrians for this area of Steger and the surrounding region and an ideal Complete Street in the community. The grant money will be used to advance the Phase 1 Engineering and help to tie into our ongoing TIF improvement Program on Steger Avenue.

The primary need for this project is improved resident accessibility to Transit. There is a Pace Route 358 Torrence bus shelter at the north east corner of Union and Steger road. The sidewalks north of this shelter are discontinuous and this work will connect the various sidewalk sections from the north Village limit at 30th Street to Steger. The secondary need for this project is safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers. This project will implement a vehicle lane "diet", changing the roadway from a four lane motorized vehicle roadway to a roadway section with one north and south bound vehicle lane with a center left turn lane and a designated north and south bound 4' wide bicycle lane for the length of the project. Vehicle lane reductions, center left turn lanes and designated bike lanes have been shown to decrease both vehicular speed and accident rates where implemented.

The Chicago Road corridor is just west of Union Ave and the railroad crossing on Steger Road. Chicago Road and Steger Road serves as the core of the Central Business District for Steger and provides access to many of the community service centers. Adjacent businesses depend on good vehicle and pedestrian access for their customers and this project will help improve these in the area. This corridor is a critical economic contributor to the Village of Steger's tax base, accessibility to public transportation and to the vitality of community life. Improvements to this corridor are expected to have positive regional benefits by providing a dependable route for movement to and from the transit station and providing health benefits with the added bike lanes and complete sidewalks to increase pedestrian usage.

Thank you for your
consideration.

Sincerely,

Heather Schady
Senior Transportation Planner

